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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of the first part of its thirty-fourth session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/49/16) and will include the report of the Committee on the second part of the session (A/49/16 (Part II)).

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 22 April 1994 and the first part of its thirty-fourth session, also at United Nations Headquarters, from 16 to 23 May. It held 10 meetings (2nd-10th meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

2. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction about the late issuance of documentation, which considerably hampered the work of the Committee and seriously impaired the preparation and the scope of an in-depth discussion. It further noted that the late issuance of documentation has been a constant query of the Committee since the time of its twenty-sixth session.

A. Agenda

3. The agenda for the thirty-fourth session, adopted by the Committee at its 2nd meeting, is reproduced in annex I below.

4. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its organizational session for 1994, decided to consider at its thirty-fourth session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and related missions (civilian component)" (see A/48/421 and Add.1, annex).

B. Election of officers

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 22 April and 16 May 1994, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mrs. Agnès Aggrey-Orleans (Ghana)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Sally E. Moss (Bahamas)
Mr. Russell Merifield (Canada)

Rapporteur: Mr. Resi Gunarto Prasodjo (Indonesia)

Also at its 2nd meeting, the Committee decided to postpone to a later meeting the election of the Vice-Chairman from the Group of Eastern European States.

C. Attendance

6. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina
Bahamas
Belarus
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
China
Congo
Cuba
Egypt
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

7. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Chile
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Mexico
Morocco
Portugal
Sweden
Tunisia

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

9. Also present at the session were senior officials of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Office for Inspections and Investigations, as well as representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Boris Krasulin, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

10. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-fourth session is contained in annex II below.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

11. At its 10th meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its thirty-fourth session (E/AC.51/1994/L.3 and Add.1-8).

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993

12. At its 9th meeting, on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/49/135).

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee commended the quality and candidness of the report and expressed appreciation for its improved format and structure. It noted that the report covered a wide spectrum of activities that had not been covered by earlier programme performance reports and included new quantitative analyses of programme implementation during the biennium.

14. The Committee stressed the need for a closer link between programme performance and budget performance reports in order to provide Member States with a clearer picture regarding the implementation of the activities of the Organization.

15. The Committee noted with regret the decrease in the overall rate of programme implementation during the biennium 1992-1993. It also noted the negative impact that the restructuring of the Secretariat and the need to address new mandates, including the preparation of important conferences in the biennium 1994-1995, as well as other factors had had on the implementation of the 1992-1993 programme of work, particularly in the economic sector. It expressed concern over the low implementation rates for development programmes under programme budget sections 15, 17, 19 and 45 (UNCTAD, United Nations Environment Programme, Human settlements and the Department for Development Support and Management Services, respectively).

16. The Committee noted that the high rate of implementation of high-priority subprogrammes under budget section 28, Human rights and section 40, Humanitarian affairs, was a reflection of the quantified activities only and did not constitute a sufficient indicator of the overall performance of those two sections. It expressed the view that implementation rates did not reflect on the quality of the outputs and services provided. It agreed that the budget sections with a rate of implementation below 70 per cent should be subject to further study for the purpose of enhancing programme management and delivery.

17. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 48/218 of 23 December 1993, which, inter alia, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility no later than 1 January 1995. It laid emphasis on the distinct roles of the central oversight and control mechanisms on the one hand and, on the other, the accountability and responsibility of programme managers for, inter alia, programme delivery and the effective management of the personnel and financial resources allocated to them. In that regard, the Committee emphasized the need for the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system of accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session through CPC at the second part of its thirty-fourth session.

18. The Committee noted that the report indicated in paragraph 37 that 173 outputs carried over from the 1990-1991 biennium or earlier were further postponed to the 1994-1995 biennium. It agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that it consider that issue in the context of its consideration of the programme performance report at its forty-ninth session.

B. Evaluation

19. At its 2nd to 5th and 8th and 9th meetings, held on 16, 17 and 19 May 1994, the Committee considered five reports on evaluation.

1. Peace-keeping operations: start-up phase

20. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 16 and 17 May 1994, the Committee considered the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase (E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr.1).

Discussion

21. The Committee was informed that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had had the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping: start-up phase before it at its March-April 1994 session and that the Special Committee, noting the report, believed that a continuing process of in-depth evaluation of various phases and aspects of peace-keeping operations was important to the deliberations on improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping (A/49/136, para. 54).

22. The Committee noted that the progress report dealt with issues that went beyond the start-up phase itself, but agreed that the report provided useful information. It provided a frank identification of problems affecting the start-up phase of peace-keeping operations. A number of delegations considered that certain recommendations were beyond the competence of CPC and therefore those recommendations should be considered in the competent intergovernmental bodies.

23. The Committee discussed at length the findings and recommendations relating to substantive components of peace-keeping operations. Some delegations expressed opposition to human rights and electoral assistance as regular components of peace-keeping operations and stressed that either or both of them could be part of peace-keeping operations only on the basis of the specific mandate given to the operation; some other delegations maintained that those components were integral parts of peace-keeping operations.

24. The Committee was informed that parts of recommendations 1 to 24 in the progress report had possible programme budget implications, but that recommendation 25 did not have any budget implications.

Conclusions and recommendations

25. Subject to the views and comments of members of CPC noted above, the Committee:

(a) Endorsed recommendation 25 concerning the final report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping: start-up phase;

(b) Took note of recommendations 1 to 24 and agreed that the General Assembly would have to review the recommendations in the light of possible statements of programme budget implications during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

2. Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

26. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, held on 16 and 17 May 1994, the Committee considered the progress report on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/49/99 and Corr.1).

Discussion

27. A number of delegations found the report useful and informative.

28. Most delegations expressed disappointment at the low number of self-evaluations undertaken during the biennium 1992-1993.

29. A number of delegations expressed concern that programme managers made changes in resource allocation and stated that the authority for such decisions rested with the General Assembly. The Secretariat remarked that the changes were made within procedures established by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Rules.

30. A number of delegations considered that in-depth evaluations should use the objectives of the medium-term plan as a benchmark and that problem-oriented approaches should be applied selectively. Some delegations stated that questions of methodology should be left to the Secretariat.

31. A number of delegations considered indicators, such as those listed in table 3, to have limited value.

32. With regard to recommendation 1, the Committee noted that the issue of the reporting cycle and the status of the Office for Inspections and Investigations were still under review in the General Assembly. Some delegations stated their support for the Secretary-General's proposals in that regard. Some delegations felt that reporting on implementation and evaluation should remain separate.

Conclusions and recommendations

33. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse recommendation 3 (A/49/99, para. 45).

34. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the following programmes be subject to in-depth evaluation, in the years indicated:

1995: Peace-keeping operations: start-up phase
Environment

1996: Department of Public Information
Peace-keeping operations: termination phase

1997: Statistics
Department of Humanitarian Affairs

3. In-depth evaluation of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

35. At its 8th and 9th meetings, held on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development (E/AC.51/1994/4 and Corr.1).

Discussion

36. The Committee was informed that the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and its technical Preparatory Committee of the whole had had the progress report before them at their session held from 26 April to 5 May 1994, along with other recent reports concerning the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; the Conference had adopted a general resolution on those concerns, resolution 770 (XXIX), citing the progress report.

37. The majority of delegations welcomed the willingness of UNDP to provide assistance to programme 45, whose implementation they considered stymied for lack of resources. They also hoped that other institutions of the United Nations system would follow suit. Other delegations reiterated the importance of maintaining zero-growth level within United Nations agencies' budgets. The Committee recognized the need further to encourage the international community to promote programme 45.

38. A number of delegations expressed surprise that no mention was made of the contributions of UNCTAD and of the specialized agencies. A number of delegations considered that several of the recommendations were within the prerogatives of the Secretary-General to implement and need not have been presented to CPC.

39. In the course of the debate, delegations made observations on the following recommendations in the report:

(a) Recommendation 2. A number of delegations questioned the value of a formal revision to the United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development;

(b) Recommendation 3. One delegation considered that the matter could best be dealt with at one of the future coordination segments of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Recommendation 4. A number of delegations stated that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) should also be consulted and that a great deal of analytical work on African debt had been done. One delegation

considered that UNCTAD should be added to the list of organizations to be consulted. Another delegation stated CPC was not the forum in which to raise those issues;

(d) Recommendation 7. A number of delegations expressed deep concern at the present resource situation and its negative effect on the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. A number of delegations considered that the recommendation had little practical value if the review would conclude that the level of resources would be inadequate. Some delegations considered that other United Nations organizations, in addition to UNDP, should also provide financial support to the programme. Some delegations regretted that the resources of the United Nations system were not being devoted in sufficient levels to the programmes related to African development, being concentrated in other priority areas of the medium-term plan. Some delegations stressed the need for overcoming overlapping and duplication in the United Nations system in order to release additional resources necessary for the implementation of programme 45;

(e) Recommendation 8. Some delegations expressed doubts about requesting JIU to conduct the study and considered that other channels, such as joint ACC-CPC meeting, should be explored. Some delegations considered it might be too early to undertake such a study;

(f) Recommendation 9. Some delegations proposed that the report should also go to the Steering Committee of OAU.

Recommendations

40. The Committee commended the special effort the Secretariat had put into preparing the report.

41. The Committee endorsed the recommendations in the progress report subject to the above-mentioned considerations.

4. Report on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-first session on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa

42. At its 9th meeting, held on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the report on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (E/AC.51/1994/5).

Discussion

43. The Committee was informed that the Conference of Ministers of ECA and its technical Preparatory Committee of the whole had had the report on the triennial review before them at their session from 26 April to 5 May 1994. In resolution 777 (XXIX), on enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), the Conference took note of the recommendations contained in the report.

44. A number of delegations considered that the recurrent theme in the report was the inadequate resources allocated to ECA to fulfil its mandates. Other delegations maintained that the lack of quality of the work was the recurrent theme.

45. A number of delegations considered the report to be a modest effort to discuss the institutional quality of ECA and of the MULPOCs and that redeploying staff to the MULPOCs might not make them more useful. They stated that the usefulness of the MULPOCs should be reviewed. Some delegations considered that the institutional strength of the MULPOCs and ECA in general should be enhanced.

Recommendations

46. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

5. In-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development

47. At its 9th meeting, on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1994/2 and Corr.1).

Discussion

48. A number of delegations commented on the low level of implementation of activities under the central programme assigned to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

49. A number of delegations endorsed the use of questionnaires systematically to elicit the views of the programme's constituencies in the field. A number of delegations observed that the low response rates to the questionnaires made it difficult to draw firm conclusions on the basis of the survey results. One delegation suggested that a more clearly formulated questionnaire might have resulted in higher response rates.

50. A number of delegations in their discussion of the recommendations contained in the report cautioned against pre-empting the conclusions and actions of the forthcoming Summit for Social Development. The following observations were made on the recommendations:

(a) Recommendation 1. Some delegations expressed the opinion that, in adopting a unified form for the components evaluated, greater attention should be given to assisting Governments in the design and implementation of national policies, legislation and programmes in the field of social development;

(b) Recommendation 2. A number of delegations broadly endorsed the recommendation and stated that the activities aimed at persons with disabilities should be given highest priority. A number of delegations questioned the priority assigned to disability activities and proposed that the programme should take an integrated approach, encompassing policy measures related to poverty alleviation, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration at all levels. A number of delegations expressed the view that more attention should be devoted to the problems of countries with economies in transition. Others expressed the view that greater attention had to be given to

the problem of social development of developing countries. A number of delegations expressed concern over the issue of redeployment of resources;

(c) Recommendation 3. Some delegations considered that, apart from the mandated reports to intergovernmental bodies, additional newsletters and bulletins were not necessary;

(d) Recommendation 4. A number of delegations considered that the programme orientation and structure should be reviewed in the context of the core priority areas identified in the Preparatory Committee for the Summit for Social Development and in the light of the actions of the Summit.

Conclusions and recommendations

51. Subject to the views and comments of members noted above, the Committee took note of the recommendations in the report.

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

52. At its 6th meeting on 18 May 1994, the Committee considered the overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (E/1994/19) and the report of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC (E/1994/4).

Discussion

53. A number of delegations welcomed the emphasis placed by ACC in its work programme on major issues of international concern and on enhancing the effectiveness of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies. The continuing improvement in the content and format of the report was also welcomed by some members. Other members expressed the view that the ACC report should be structured in such a way that it would assist CPC in the fulfilment of its role of advising the Economic and Social Council on issues and problems relating to coordination within the United Nations system.

54. With respect to resource flows and financing for development, several members expressed concern that the flow of official development assistance (ODA), in particular to African and least developed countries, was either stagnant or decreasing. They further expressed their concern about the reduction of resources for operational activities, which had led, in particular, to a decline in the UNDP indicative planning figures for developing countries. A number of members emphasized the link between development and peace and stressed the need for balance in pursuit of those goals. Some members were of the view that, irrespective of the changing international environment, there was need to maintain the principles of international development cooperation that underlay ODA. One member stated that the ODA provided by major donors was not influenced by any political considerations. Some members expressed the view that it was the responsibility of ACC to ensure a better use of resources, by avoiding overlap and duplication among organizations, within the framework of zero-growth budgetary policies.

55. Some delegations expressed the view that the statement contained in the first part of paragraph 6 (d) of the ACC report was factually incorrect, whereas others agreed with the ideas contained therein.

56. Several members welcomed the information provided in the report on the actions taken by ACC and the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. They emphasized that the momentum generated at Rio must be maintained. They expressed their concern at the lack of new and additional resources for carrying out the mandates emanating from Agenda 21 1/ and expressed the hope that the Commission for Sustainable Development would address that question. Some members noted that the ACC report did not indicate how the actions reported represented a coordinated approach.

57. Some members expressed their concern that the discontinuation of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems might reduce the access of Member States to information and databases of the United Nations

system and expressed their wish that the establishment of a new Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC) should lead to greater access to such information and databases. Some delegations emphasized the need for involving Member States in the work of ISCC through their permanent missions.

58. Several members, referring to the information provided in the report on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, stated that there was a large gap between the losses incurred by the affected countries as a result of abiding by the sanctions and the assistance being provided to them by the international community. The view was also expressed that ACC should devote greater attention to the problems of countries in transition.

59. Several members expressed their concern regarding the accumulation of arrears of assessed contributions and the consequent negative effects on programme delivery. A number of delegations welcomed the adoption by ACC of a set of common accounting standards for the United Nations system and expressed the hope that those standards would be implemented speedily by all organizations of the system.

60. Several members welcomed the emphasis placed in the ACC work programme for 1994 on substantive economic and social issues, the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, human rights and African development.

61. A number of delegations welcomed the efforts of ACC to address key policy issues on the international agenda and to enhance the effectiveness of its functioning and the work of its subsidiary bodies, and encouraged it to continue to work towards a more coherent and effective utilization of the human and financial resources placed at the disposal of the system.

Conclusions and recommendations

62. The Committee took note of the reports of ACC and of the Chairmen of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC. It reaffirmed the importance of effective coordination within the United Nations system. It recognized that coordination should be based on substantive issues and stressed the need for enhanced coordination at the country level.

63. The Committee noted the suggestion by the Secretariat that the Committee's role in addressing the ACC report had been limited. In that connection, the Committee emphasized that a principal element of the mandate of CPC was the coordination issue.

64. The Committee requested information on the costs of the coordination activities of the United Nations system. The Committee was informed that such information was not available.

65. The Committee stressed the importance of continuing the efforts of the Secretary-General, including in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, in mobilizing and coordinating assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter and requested him to continue those efforts and report on the outcome thereon in the next overview report of ACC.

66. The Committee recommended that the Joint Meetings of ACC and CPC should continue to be held at the level of government representatives and heads of United Nations organs and agencies.

67. The Committee noted that the coordination activities of ACC should be directed at the avoidance of duplication and overlap. While that was an important function, the Committee recommended that ACC, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, should move beyond that stage to joint efforts, on the basis of the respective mandates and autonomy of the organizations, to work towards a more coherent and effective utilization of the human and financial resources placed at the disposal of the system.

68. The Committee welcomed the priority that the United Nations system was giving to the completion of the implementation of common accounting standards, and encouraged the Organization to complete the work, if possible, by the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

69. The Committee noted that the Economic and Social Council was now carrying out its coordination functions in the context of its high-level and coordination segments; considered that CPC could assist the Council in the fulfilment of the Council's role by focusing its attention on programming and prioritization of issues; and requested that future ACC reports be directed towards providing the necessary information to assist CPC in fulfilling that function.

70. The Committee agreed that the theme for the twenty-eighth series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC should be "African economic recovery and development".

B. Draft framework for a revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

71. The issues discussed by the Committee included the purpose that a revision of the System-wide Plan would serve, the priority areas identified in the document, the resource requirements for the plan and specific modifications to the draft framework (E/AC.51/1994/6).

72. Some members emphasized that a revised plan would be useful if it could contribute to reversing the current adverse socio-economic trends in Africa and lead to concrete results. Others were of the view that the plan should serve to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of the assistance being provided by the organizations of the system to Africa. To that end, the plan should promote better coordination at the country level.

73. While most members agreed with the assessment of the current economic situation given in the draft, its general orientation and the broad priority areas identified in it, a number of delegations suggested that the problem of external debt, economic diversification and regional integration should be included among the priority issues to be addressed. Others suggested that market-based strategies, privatization and effective macroeconomic policies should also be highlighted.

74. A number of members stressed that additional resource allocations would be required to meet the socio-economic needs of the continent. Others were of the view that the economic crisis in Africa could be resolved only by the combined efforts of the African countries, the multilateral institutions of the United Nations system, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations active in

promoting African development. Those delegations also emphasized the need for a more efficient use of resources.

75. Several members questioned the appropriateness of including in the draft a number of political considerations totally alien to the issue under consideration as contained in paragraph 38. A number of members also suggested that paragraph 20 should be reformulated to clarify the relationship between population and economic growth.

Conclusions and recommendations

76. The Committee took note of the general orientation of the draft framework, the broad priority areas identified in it and the decentralized process suggested for developing support programmes around the priority themes.

77. The Committee underscored the need for urgent and concerted action to address the grave economic situation in Africa. It noted that a well-conceived system-wide plan for African economic recovery and development could serve as a useful instrument for promoting a concerted response by the United Nations system to the African crisis.

78. The Committee urged that the comments and suggestions made and the modifications proposed during the discussion should be fully taken into account in preparing the revised system-wide plan.

IV. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

79. At its 3rd and 4th meetings on 16 and 17 May 1994, the Committee considered the report of JIU entitled "Staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and related missions (civilian component)" (A/48/421) and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/48/421/Add.1).

Discussion

80. A number of delegations supported the idea that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations should become the central department for dealing with peace-keeping operations.

81. A number of delegations spoke in favour of further strengthening the 24-hour situation room and felt that that problem should be further discussed in the Fifth Committee.

82. A number of delegations supported the recommendation on the wider use of United Nations retirees, but they drew attention to the necessity to reconsider the financial aspects of the problem.

83. A number of delegations expressed misgiving in connection with recommendation III (c) on the more extensive recruitment and wider functions of the United Nations Volunteers. Those delegations stressed that participation in peace-keeping operations should not detract from the main sphere of activity of United Nations Volunteers: assistance for economic development and technical cooperation.

84. Other delegations stressed the importance, for the United Nations, of increasing the participation of qualified civilian personnel from all Member States in peace-keeping operations. Furthermore, they stressed the necessity to keep Governments informed of modalities and deadlines for the recruitment of those personnel and the need to help in their training prior to, and during, the mission. Those delegations expressed the need to increase hazard pay within those missions, especially for such personnel not subject to conditions of service with the United Nations (see A/48/421, para. 115).

85. A number of delegations expressed the view that the presentation of such a report reflected certain positive developments in the activity of JIU.

86. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the participation of United Nations personnel in peace-keeping missions continued to be voluntary, but with application of the principle of rotation. Other delegations expressed the opinion that the application of that principle as well as the criteria for maintaining vacant posts at Headquarters should be reviewed in the light of experience gained since the JIU report was completed.

87. A number of delegations noted with satisfaction that peace-keeping was one of four priority areas in the 1994-1995 work programme of JIU.

Conclusions and recommendations

88. The Committee noted with appreciation the high quality of the report and the timeliness of its presentation. It expressed agreement with the diagnosis of the imperfections in the civilian component of the staffing of United Nations peace-keeping and related missions.

89. The Committee noted that the report had been commented upon favourably by the Secretary-General and some of its recommendations had already been implemented. The report was also under consideration in the Fifth and Special Political and Decolonization Committees and was referred to in resolution 48/42 adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1993.

90. The Committee supported the thrust of the recommendations. At the same time, the Committee considered it necessary that some recommendations, in particular those on recruitment, should be discussed further in the Fifth Committee.

91. The Committee stressed that further efforts should be made to enhance the security of civilian personnel participating in peace-keeping operations.

92. The Committee stressed that a specific code of conduct must be prepared and provided to all mission participants.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan;

   (d) Review and development of procedures and norms, including workload analyses, to justify the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts;

   (e) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations;

   (f) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

   (g) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) Proposed revisions to the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-fourth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-fourth session

A/49/99	Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/49/135	Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993
A/48/421 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General on staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and related missions (civilian component)
E/1994/4	Report of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination held on 27 October 1993
E/1994/19	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993
E/AC.51/1994/2 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development
E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr.1	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping: start-up phase
E/AC.51/1994/4 and Corr.1	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development
E/AC.51/1994/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa
E/AC.51/1994/6	Draft framework for the revised System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

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